

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 91

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Coach Randy Barnes of the Union City High School football team on the occasion of his retirement from coaching.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such remarkable person is Coach Randy Barnes, who recently retired as Head Coach of the Union City High School football team, after having led the Golden Tornadoes to State football prominence while earning acclaim as the winningest coach in school history during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, a Ripley native, Coach Barnes earned his college degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he played football; and

WHEREAS, Randy Barnes came to Union City from Houston High School in 1975 as an assistant coach with Coach Larry Shanks; he became renowned for his hard work and dedication to the game and was named the school's Head Coach seven years later; and

WHEREAS, Coach Barnes retired with a sterling 191-58 win-loss record, ranking him among the top ten in winning percentage (.767) among high school coaches in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he experienced just two losing seasons during his illustrious career at UCHS, leading the Golden Tornadoes to post season play in 18 of those years, including 12 State playoff berths; his best teams were the 1997 and 2000 squads, both of which posted 14-1 marks and reached the Class 2A State championship games; and

WHEREAS, Union City won at least 10 games in seven different seasons under Coach Barnes' tutelage, and from 1997-2000, the Twisters posted a spectacular 52-6 mark, with two championship game appearances and two semifinal berths; and

WHEREAS, Randy Barnes has coached in 323 games as either the head coach or as an assistant coach at Union City High School; he has also served as the school's athletic director, as baseball and boys' track coach, and as a boys' basketball aide; and

WHEREAS, Coach Barnes has played an integral role in upgrading the football program's facilities and making them some of the best in the state; a state-of-the-art indoor workout area, which also benefits the baseball, softball, and basketball teams, was built under his watch, in addition to the school's weight room being modernized and enlarged; and

WHEREAS, he is a ten-time recipient of the Coach of the Year Award and received the TSSAA's Distinguished Service Award; the TSSAA also awarded Coach Barnes the organization's prestigious A.F. Bridges Award; and

WHEREAS, Coach Barnes has twice been selected to serve as a member of the coaching staff for the Tennessee High School All Stars in their annual game with Kentucky, and has been a member of the Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association board of directors, to which he has also contributed his time and talents as President; and

WHEREAS, despite a highly successful and demanding career, Randy Barnes has remained committed to the values of family and community; he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Sharon, son, David, and daughter, Anna; and

WHEREAS, he has served the people of Union City with distinction, not only as a coach, but also as a community leader, mentor, neighbor, and friend; and

WHEREAS, UCHS Principal Donnie Cox spoke highly of Coach Barnes and his accomplishments in stating, "Randy Barnes will be sorely missed as both a coach and a faculty member. He has served with great diligence and has influenced the lives of many young men and women"; and

WHEREAS, Randy Barnes epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Coach Barnes for his numerous contributions to Tennessee high school athletics; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Coach Randy Barnes for his meritorious service to the good people of Union City, as a teacher and coach at Union City High School and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.